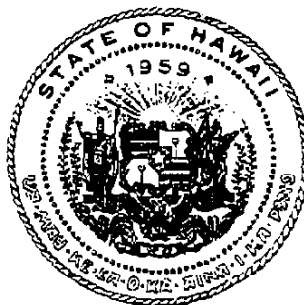


Report to the Twenty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2002

on

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN
FOR POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**



Prepared by the
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
State of Hawaii

in response to
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 118, Senate Draft 1
Regular Session of 1999

December 2001

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIRST STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2002
ON
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN
FOR POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**

This report is submitted in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) No. 118, Senate Draft. 1,

Regular Session of 1999, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR KEEPING POHOIKI BOAT RAMP SAFE AND CLEAN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

I. BACKGROUND

The subject Concurrent Resolution was introduced and adopted during the Regular Session of 1999 in response to community concerns over the potentially dangerous conflicts between boat launching activities at Pohoiki Boat Ramp and other recreational activities taking place within Issac Hale Beach Park. Although the Pohoiki Launch Ramp is owned and maintained by the State, it is physically located within Issac Hale Beach Park that is operated and maintained by the County of Hawaii.

The primary factors that contribute to congestion and heavy use by conflicting activities are (1) the Pohoiki Launch Ramp provides the closest boating access to the rich, off-shore fishing grounds of the southeast coast of the island of Hawaii; and (2) Issac Hale Beach Park is the only remaining beach park facility in the area that is available to local residents following the destruction of Kaimu Beach Park, Harry K. Brown Beach Park and Kalapana Beach Park by the 1992 lava flow.

The subject Concurrent Resolution requested the Department of Land and Natural Resources submit annual progress reports to the Legislature until a master plan is developed for Pohoiki boat ramp that is acceptable to all concerned parties. A copy of SCR No. 118, 1999, is attached for ready reference.

II. STATUS REPORT

The Department's report to the Twenty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2001, reported that the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation had provided the Department's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation with a copy of the master plan drawings for the proposed addition to Issac Hale Beach Park, and reported that design of the improvements included in the master plan was underway.

The Department is pleased to note that the preliminary plans for development of the first phase of the expansion to Issac Hale Beach Park includes several improvements in the immediate vicinity of the launch ramp. These improvements are expected to be instrumental in alleviating many of the conflicts between park users and boaters using the

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ramp facility that prompted the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 118, Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 1999. These improvements include (1) improvements to the access road to the ramp, (2) new parking areas, including new boat parking stalls, (3) renovation of the pavilion located adjacent to the ramp, and (4) new picnic tables in the vicinity of the ramp. A copy of a section of the plans for phase one improvements is attached for reference.

Communication with the Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii, on November 26, 2001, reported that the semi-final design plans for the park expansion had been delivered to them very recently, and were undergoing final review. The Department of Parks and Recreation also reported that they expected to advertise for bids for the construction contract for the park expansion within three to six months.

III. PROPOSED ACTION

The Department's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) has not had the necessary funding available to initiate an independent in-depth master planning effort for Pohoiki boat ramp, or provide direct financial assistance to the County of Hawaii to support its master planning efforts for the addition to Issac Hale Beach Park. However DOBOR will continue to offer the maximum assistance available within its existing resources to coordinate ramp use activities with the County's park expansion construction activities in order to minimize inconvenience to all users and avoid interference with construction efforts.

The Department submitted a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget request to the Third Special Legislative Session of 2001, which included a request of \$350,000 for major improvements to Pohoiki boat ramp and its interface with Issac Hale Beach Park improvements. Should this project receive favorable consideration for funding during the Regular Legislative Session of 2002, the Department will ensure that appropriate attention is given to integrate the planning for these improvements with the Department of Parks and Recreation's master plan for the area.

Attachments

